

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
July 26, 2016

CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 p.m.

INVOCATION: President Hardaway requested a moment of silence.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: All members were present.

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND REMONSTRATIONS:

There are three requests for large gathering permits as follows:

The 5th Annual Adlers Ride will take place July 31, 2016. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Minchuk. Chief Petruch said that Schererville Police will assist with handling security. There was no further discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

The St. Sava Serb Festival will take place August 5-7th. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve and seconded by Mr. Pettit. Chief Petruch said that Lake County is handling security. There was no further discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

The India Fest will take place August 7, 2016. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mrs. LaMarca. Chief Petruch said that Merrillville Police is handling security. There was no further discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of the Accounts Payable Register Voucher dated July 26, 2016. Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes of July 12, 2016. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mrs. Uzelac. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

BUDGET & FINANCE:

Mr. Pettit had no report.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Mr. Spann had no report. Mr. Lake presented an amended agreement between the Town of Merrillville and the Merrillville Stormwater Utility for labor for maintaining the utility’s facilities and constructing small drainage projects for the utility. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

COUNCIL AFFAIRS:

Mrs. Uzelac had no report.

PERSONNEL POLICY & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS:

Mrs. Barron briefly mentioned an upcoming meeting to discuss insurance.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Mrs. Uzelac had no report.

PARKS & RECREATION:

The Merrillville High School band performed. Ms. LaMarca presented awards to the following winners of the Independence Parade:

Best Band	Merrillville High School
Best Float	Geminus Corporation
Best Vehicle entry	Ladies in Charge
Best Dance entry	Asia Dance Factory
Best Walking unit	Lake County Pipes & Drums
Best Kids Walking unit	Champions Cheerleading Squad

Ms. Orlich read a press release stating the Erie Lakawanna Trail from 91st Ave to 93rd Ave will be closed starting August 4th for approximately 6 weeks due to a NIPSCO construction project. Please observe the warning signs posted regarding the closures.

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS:

Mrs. Barron had no report.

ELECTIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS:

Ms. LaMarca had no report. President Hardaway discussed the Indiana First US Flag Display Legacy Project. The project is to raise awareness of the Indiana 200th Anniversary of Statehood, to promote civic pride, to promote comity between and among the several cities, towns, and the county governments all instituted to serve the people of Lake County, the Indiana First US Flag Display Legacy Project is proposed. The celebration to raise the Town of Merrillville flag will be held Friday, August 5, 2016.

President Hardaway thanked everyone that came out to the Community Vigil which took place on July 21, 2016 to recognize all lives matter. He also thanked the Town Council & Mr. Guernsey for their support. President Hardaway recognized Vicki Bunnell and Stacy Gaza for their assistance with planning & organizing the event and thanked them for their efforts.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

Mr. Pettit had no report.

UTILITY LIAISON:

Mrs. Barron had no report.

ABANDONED PROPERTIES:

President Hardaway mentioned that they are in the process of addressing abandon strip malls. The owners will be contacted to register any of the vacant locations and pay the \$200 registration fee. Also the owners will also need to communicate their intention for these properties.

GENERAL ORDERS:

FIRST READING ORDINANCES:

Ord. 16-21: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, appropriating additional monies within the Casino Fund for the year 2016 not included in the current budget. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. There was no discussion. The motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

SECOND READING ORDINANCES:

Ord. 16-20: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, appropriating additional monies within the Parks Donation budget for the year 2016 not included in the current budget. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mr. Pettit. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

RESOLUTIONS:

None

BZA ACTIONS:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Pettit expressed concerns related to arising issues regarding the business of Deluxe Inn. Mr. Pettit is taking a proactive role in these types of circumstances in an effort to circumvent any undesirable activity.

NEW BUSINESS:

President Hardaway said that the bench and brick dedicated in honor of Ms. Gregor will be in place July 27th. The family will be informed and they are welcome to visit anytime. Mr. Hardaway said that he would be happy to join them anytime at the site.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

All public comment is recorded on an audio file and kept on file in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office at Town Hall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Board of Zoning Appeals meeting, July 27, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.
Stormwater Management Board meeting, August 2, 2016 at 4:30 p.m.
National Night Out, August 2, 2016 from 6:00-8:00 p.m.(Merrillville Municipal Complex, 7820 Broadway)
National Night Out, August 2, 2016 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. (Ward 2 – Meadowland Park / 54th & Madison)
Plan Commission Workshop meeting, August 3, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.
Police Commission meeting, August 5, 2016 at 8:00 a.m.
Town Council meeting, August 9, 2016, at 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Pettit and seconded by Mrs. Uzelac.

Richard Hardaway, President

Eugene Guernsey, Clerk-Treasurer